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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE
TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Sub-Committee of Experts on the
Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Fourteenth session,
Geneva, 8-18 December 1997,
agenda item 2 (c))

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL REGULATIONS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Other packaging and IBC matters

Transmitted by the Expert from Canada

1. In the course of doing business, some manufacturers of Dangerous Goods must vary their products in order to respond to customer needs. This sometimes requires minor increases in the dimensions of a tested package design. A number of manufacturers have indicated the need for a provision in the test requirements to allow for such changes of dimension without the retesting of the design.

2. A study of this issue was initiated by industry in Canada. Two test facilities investigated what effect minor increases in the dimensions of fibreboard boxes would have with respect to the stacking and drop tests. They concluded that, with the exception of height, increases in dimension as a result of a 10% increase in volume or gross mass would not adversely affect the performance of small fibreboard boxes in either test.

3. Recommendations from this study were that the variation in dimension be limited to boxes of 30 kg or less gross mass and that any resulting voids be filled with additional cushioning material in order to prevent significant movement of the inner packaging.

4. Variations to a tested package design exist in paragraphs 6.1.5.1.5, 6.1.5.1.6 and 6.1.5.1.7, but none of these address the type of variation described above.

5. The expert from Canada requests comments from the Sub-Committee. If there is support for a change of this nature then a formal proposal will be made for the July meeting.